



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water  
Office of Science and Technology



## Water Quality Standards Database

August, 2002

### Summary

EPA is developing a National Water Quality Standards Database (WQSDB) to improve public access to information on how the waters they care about are being protected, and how actions in their watershed can help or harm those waters. The first phase of this on-line database consists of a compilation of “designated uses,” which describe the functions each waterbody is intended to support -- fishing, swimming, drinking water source, or some other use. The second phase of the WQSDB will add numeric “water quality criteria”, which represent the quality of water that supports particular uses. When completed, the WQSDB will allow access to maps and tables for all of the approximately 2.7 million surface water bodies across the nation. You can visit the database at: [www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase](http://www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase).

### Status

The August update on the internet of the WQSDB includes approved information on designated uses in table form for 25 states, tribes, and territories. Surface water maps<sup>1</sup> also are available for 17 of these states. (New or updated information for ten states and tribes are shown in bold type.)

Arizona	Table and Map	Nebraska	Table and Map
Colorado	Table and Map	New Mexico	Table and Map
<b>Confederated Salish &amp; Kootenai Tribes</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	North Dakota	Table and Map
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>Table</b>	Oklahoma	Table
<b>Delaware</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	Rhode Island	Table
<b>Florida</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	South Dakota	Table and Map
Illinois	Table and Map	<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>
Iowa	Table and Map	Texas	Table
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>Table</b>	<b>Utah</b>	<b>Table</b>
Missouri	Table <sup>2</sup> and Map	<b>Virgin Islands</b>	<b>Table</b>
Mississippi	Table <sup>2</sup> and Map	West Virginia	Table and Map
Montana	Table		

<sup>1</sup> Maps can be accessed from the WQSDB homepage or at [www.epa.gov/waters/enviromapper](http://www.epa.gov/waters/enviromapper).  
EnviroMapper allows information like designated uses to be shown on water body maps from the National Hydrography Dataset, maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Includes numeric water quality criteria

### **Data Awaiting State Approval**

Fifteen states are reviewing new and updated data, which we hope to include in the January 2003 update to the WQSDB:

California	Table and Map	Montana	Map
Connecticut	Map	Nevada	Table and Map
Kansas	Table and Map	Ohio	Table and Map
Kentucky	Map	Oklahoma	Map
Louisiana	Table and Map	South Dakota	Map
Minnesota	Table and Map	Texas	Map
Mississippi	Map	Utah	Map
Missouri	Map		

### **Anticipated New States**

We have begun, or expect to begin, work in 2002 with at least the following 9 jurisdictions:

Alabama	Pilot	Michigan	Pilot
Alaska	Pilot	New Hampshire	Pilot
<b>District of Columbia</b>	Pilot	North Carolina	Pilot
Indiana	Pilot	Virginia	Pilot
Maine	Pilot		

### **For More Information . . .**

or comments on the WQSDB, please contact Bill Kramer at: (202) 566-0385, or [kramer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:kramer.bill@epa.gov)

**WQSDB Web Site:** [www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase](http://www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase)

**Links:** to state, tribal, and federal WQS text documents, tables, and maps:  
[www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/states/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/states/)

The WQSDB is a component of the **WATERS** information system, which also contains state listings of impaired waters; see: [www.epa.gov/waters/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/waters/index.html)